

May 11, 2017

Dear Poor Soul Who Has to Review All These Comments,

I'm just some dude with a maybe better-than-average awareness of computer stuff. I didn't come here because I heard a one-sided take from some tech journal. I came here because it is painfully obvious to anyone with a fleeting awareness of the "Restoring Internet Freedom" proposal that its practical effect will be to stifle innovation, reduce competition, harm both consumers and corporations, and favor only the interests of a select few companies who already refuse to meaningfully compete.

On Comcast, and Verizon, and Time Warner's networks, the average speed of Netflix videos plummeted in November 2013 while those companies were negotiating new fees with Netflix. Mysteriously, when Netflix found themselves losing customers and agreed to pay the cable networks months later, the average speed of Netflix video on all three networks jumped substantially - in what was apparently the fastest purchase and rollout of infrastructure in the history of the human race?

A year later, upon classification of broadband providers as common carriers -- again, mysteriously, average broadband speeds across all providers fell dramatically in the months following the FCC's decision. I'm **sure** these companies would never **intentionally** throttle data. Especially since they said they would never do that. Even though it's in their financial interest to do so...

I know sarcasm is not the best way to get a point across, but I am truly at a loss because this proposal tears down consumer protections that are desperately needed. The cable (and wireless) industries have a long history of abusing their non-competitive positions. But rather than addressing this, every single argument I have seen supporting Title II declassification relies on flimsy definitions, wordplay, and a sort of tongue-in-cheek assertion that these providers will be on their best behavior. If only they're allowed to do whatever they want, then really, it'll totally work out in our best interest! Despite the fact that they will have less incentive than ever to act in our best interest.

I don't care who is democrat or who is republican. I don't care whether you loved or hated Obama, whether it was a travesty that he involved himself the first time around, or whether Tom Wheeler 's advocacy was unprecedented and overreaching. *I literally only want the FCC to listen to what real people want their government to do. There is no significant public support for this proposal. Nobody except Verizon, Comcast, AT&T, and their business partners wanted to reopen this stupid discussion.*

PLEASE don't ignore us and say the FTC "should" be regulating, or Congress "should" be regulating. Because frankly, they're not. And I don't see them planning to. I agree that they "could" offer these consumer protections, but so "could" the FCC. The FCC is qualified to serve as an authority on the subject and if businesses disagree, the place to draw that line is in the courts (as is already happening) - not by just disassembling every consumer protection on the grounds that maybe someone else "should" be doing it. **Companies can sue to overturn, starting that discussion, but there is nobody we can sue to prevent abuse.** *PLEASE* serve the public, and not the telecom lobby.

Thank you very much for your time.

/s/ Peter Adkisson
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